

Facts and Figures
Northwest Territories



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The Northwest Territories embrace all that portion of Canada north of the 60th parallel N. latitude, except those portions within the Yukon Territory and the provinces of Quebec and Newfoundland; it also includes the islands in Hudson Bay, James Bay and Ungava Bay except those within the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

Constitution and Government

The Arthur Laing Building in Yellowknife which houses the administrative offices of the Territorial Government.

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Under the Northwest Territories Act, a Commissioner is appointed during pleasure by the Governor in Council to act as chief executive officer. While subject to the instructions of the Governor in Council and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, in practice the Commissioner is responsive to the wishes of the Council. He is assisted by a Deputy Commissioner, who is empowered to exercise the powers of the Commissioner in the latter's absence, and an Assistant Commissioner. In September 1967 the Commissioner and a small nucleus of territorial public servants took up residence in Yellowknife, the newly designated seat of government.

The legislative branch of the Territories consists of a Council composed of 14 members, four appointed by the Governor in Council and 10 elected for four years. Council, together with the Commissioner (Commissioner in Council) may make ordinances for the Government of the Territories as

provided for in the Northwest Territories Act. In general, the Commissioner in Council has the power to legislate on the same classes of subjects which are within the legislative competence of the provinces. The main exception is the natural resources (other than game) of the Territories.

The administration of the Mackenzie District is carried on by the staff of the Territorial Government and since April 1, 1970 the Territorial Government has assumed responsibility for the administration of the Keewatin and Baffin Regions as well.



Yellowknife, capital of the NWT, has a population of 7,000 and is a modern and thriving city accessible by air, land and water.



Area and Population

The total area of the Territories is 1,304,903 square miles (3,379,700 km.), divided into three districts, namely, Mackenzie (527,490 square miles), Keewatin (228,160 square miles) and Franklin (549,253 square miles). The population in 1970 was estimated at 34,500, about two-thirds of which are Indians or Eskimos. Main centres (census 1966): Fort Smith (2,120), Inuvik (2,040), Hay River (2,002), Frobisher Bay (1,631), Fort Simpson (712). With the transfer in governmental responsibility from Ottawa to the Territorial capital at Yellowknife the population of Yellowknife, due to an influx of civil servants, rose from 3,741 in 1966 to 7,000 in 1970.

Arctic expeditions and charter plane flights into remote regions start at this float plane base at Yellowknife.



Education 1970-71

The Government of the Northwest Territories operates 55 schools with 549 teachers. In addition, one Public School District and one Roman Catholic Separate School District are operated at Yellowknife. There is a total enrolment of 10,291, of which 4,264 are Eskimos and 1,731 are Indians. Of this total, 1,280 students are accommodated in eight large student residences. Free correspondence courses and financial assistance are available to any pupil in a settlement where conventional instruction is not available. There is a full range of courses available in the school system: industrial arts, home economics, commercial, technical and occupational training as well as pre-vocational courses for pupils in the Eastern Arctic at Fort Churchill, Manitoba. The Continuing and Special Education Program provides courses and financial assistance to residents who have left the school system or are taking post high school training.

Health and Welfare 1970

In 1970 there were 10 hospitals in the Territories, six operated by missions, one by a locally elected hospital board at Yellowknife, two by the federal government and one by a private company. Twenty-five nursing stations, 11 health stations and eight health centres were in operation.

Welfare services are provided by professional social workers. Facilities include five children's receiving homes, one home for the aged and five transit centres.

Mining

Mineral production for 1970, according to preliminary figures, was valued at \$124,004,060, consisting of the following: gold \$11,686,310; silver \$4,671,250; lead \$34,804,000; zinc \$71,685,000 and copper \$631,100. Yellowknife continues to be the centre of gold-mining activity.

As of December 31, 1970, 9,100 permits for oil and gas exploration were held for 433,478,715 acres, of which 107,653,930 acres were on the mainland, 256,838,030 acres were in Arctic islands north of 70° and 42,294,886 were in the marine areas south of 70°.

Crude oil, discovered in 1920, is produced and refined at Norman Wells on the Mackenzie River; production for 1970 was 897,031 barrels.

Trapping and Game

Fur marketed during the 1969-70 season was valued at \$934,000.

More than 3,000 reindeer are maintained in the Mackenzie Delta region.

A herd of some 12,000 buffalo is protected in Wood Buffalo National Park.

Barren ground caribou are increasing, due in part to more effective range management and protection.

Fisheries

Commercial fishing during 1970, principally on Great Slave Lake, produced about 2,464 tons of fish, mostly whitefish and lake trout.

Forestry

The principal trees are white spruce, jackpine, balsam, poplar and birch. In 1969-70, 5,089,779 board feet of lumber, 295,670 lineal feet of round timber and 1,189 cords of fuel wood were cut.

Co-operatives

There are 27 co-operatives and two credit unions in the Northwest Territories. They are active in handicrafts, furs, fisheries, retail stores, bakeries, print shops, provision of housing, contracting for services, etc. Their sales in 1970 were about \$2,000,000.

Shipping

A direct inland-water transportation route stretching about 1,700 miles is provided by the Mackenzie River and its tributaries; the Athabasca and Slave Rivers. Subsidiary routes on Lake Athabasca, Great Slave and Great Bear River and Lake total more than 800 miles.

Roads 1970

Railways

Aviation 1970

Communications 1970

The Mackenzie Route connects Grimshaw, Alberta, with Hay River, Pine Point, Fort Smith, Fort Providence, Rae and Yellowknife. The Mackenzie Highway extension to Fort Simpson and a road between Pine Point and Fort Resolution have both been opened.

In addition, construction of the Dempster Highway to Fort McPherson is underway to provide a connecting link to Arctic Red River and to meet the highway under construction proceeding south from Inuvik. The Dempster Highway will possibly be extended farther north to Tuktoyaktuk.

The Great Slave Lake Railway runs from Pine Point, on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, 435 miles south to Grimshaw, Alberta, where it connects with the continental railway system.

Thirteen licensed and five unlicensed airports are operated by the federal Ministry of Transport and there are 44 unlicensed aerodromes operated privately. Regular mail, passenger and express services are maintained throughout the Territories. One seaplane base is operated jointly at Baker Lake by the Ministry of Transport and Department of National Defence, and there are 27 licensed private seaplane bases. Scheduled services link major points with centres in southern Canada.

There are 51 operating post offices in the Northwest Territories.

The CBC Northern Service operates radio stations at Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik and Frobisher Bay. In addition it has low-power relay transmitters at Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Pine Point, Fort Providence, Fort Resolution, Fort Good Hope, Wrigley and Fort Norman.

Television programming is provided by means of video taped "frontier packages", transmitted by stations located at Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Pine Point.

Commercial telephone communication has been established between southern Canada and Fort Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife in the Mackenzie District and Frobisher Bay on Baffin Island.

Canadian National Telecommunications has established a telephone and telegraph service from Hay River to Inuvik. High-frequency telephone service is also available throughout the Northwest Territories.

Great Slave Lake is famous for its giant lake trout.
There are package fishing trips into this area.



The awesome splendor of Lady Evelyn Falls greets travellers near the Mackenzie Highway in the Northwest Territories.

Books of Reference

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